

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-18 cancelled

19. (currently amended) A ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab for cosmetic or medical purposes or for body care, the swab comprising:

a stick; and

a fiber material forming a ~~cotton head~~fiber head at at least one end of the stick, the fiber material comprising micro staple fibers of at least 7mm in length.

20. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein the ~~micro staple fibers are~~ fiber material comprises polyester (PES) or viscose fibers.

21. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 3 to 50 weight %.

22. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 21, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 30 weight %.

23. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 22, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.

24. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.

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25. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 24, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 60 to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.
26. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 25, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 70 to 95 weight % of cotton fibers.
27. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 24, wherein said cotton fibers are cotton noils.
28. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material comprises thermally meltable binding fibers.
29. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 28, wherein a portion of said thermally meltable binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.
30. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 29, wherein a portion of said thermally meltable binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 15 weight %.
31. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 28, wherein said thermally meltable binding fibers are multi-component fibers or bi-component fibers.
32. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 31, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 10 dtex.

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33. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 32, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 3 dtex.
34. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 31, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber length of 3 to 60 mm.
35. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 28, wherein said binding fibers are copolyester (CO-PES) / polyester (PES) bi-component fibers.
36. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 31, wherein a melting point of said thermally meltable binding fibers or of a low melting component of said multi-component fibers is lower than a melting point of said micro staple fibers.
37. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 30N.
38. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 37, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 40N.
39. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3 seconds.
40. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 39, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3.4 seconds.

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41. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4 seconds.
42. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4.5 seconds.
43. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 21 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).
44. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 43, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 23 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).
45. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material contains a softener.
46. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material forming said ~~cotton head~~fiber head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 0.5 to 8 g/m.
47. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 46, wherein said fiber material forming said ~~cotton head~~fiber head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 1 to 2 g/m.

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48.47. (currently amended) The ~~cotton swab~~fiber swab of claim 46,
wherein said fiber fleece or the fiber fleece strip is a card fleece which
is oriented in a machine direction.